
Office of Public Instruction

🍏 Audiology: Hearing Conservation Program 🍏

The Division of Special Education administers the statewide Hearing Conservation Program. The purpose of the program is to identify children with hearing impairments. The Office of Public Instruction contracts with nine providers (of these, two are school districts, one is a special education cooperative, two are university programs and four are private practice providers) for audiology services. Contractors provide the needed “matching” funds for the program’s operation. This program is an excellent example of a public and private partnership for the benefit of Montana children. Functions of the program include:

- 🍏 Helps to ensure that Montana children who have been identified as having a hearing impairment are reported back to the schools so that the necessary instructional supports can be provided for the child’s successful education;
- 🍏 Assures public schools have ongoing access to qualified audiology providers even in the most rural and remote portions of the state;
- 🍏 Screens approximately 64,000 children a year and refers almost 2,000 children annually for follow-up medical evaluations;
- 🍏 Provides comprehensive hearing evaluation for any child suspected of having a hearing impairment at no cost to the parent;
- 🍏 Provides follow-up to hospital screenings of infants suspected of having a hearing impairment; and
- 🍏 Works with schools and contractors to ensure services are provided in accordance with contracts and technical assistance requirements.